

Report To:	Education & Lifelong Learning Committee	Date: 17 March 2009
Report By:	Corporate Director Education and Social Care	Report No: EDUC/24/09/CL
Contact Officer:	Colin Laird	Contact No: 01475 712824
Subject:	Speech & Language Therapy Contract 2009-2010	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the costs and nature of the Speech & Language Therapy (SLT) contract which is due for renewal in 2009.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Individual children have a wide range of additional support needs as defined in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 and the Additional Support for Learning Bill 2008. The requirement for some children to receive SLT may be set out in a Co-ordinated Support Plan. NHS have not generally quantified that support in such Plans.
- 2.2 The services of Speech & Language Therapists and therapy assistants are contracted from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde using in part a grant from the Scottish Government.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee agrees to the purchase, via a contract for the period 2009-2012, speech and language therapy services for young people from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde at the costs specified in this report.

Ian Fraser
Corporate Director : Education and Social Care

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Some children experience early difficulties in speech and language and would benefit from the services of speech and language therapists. In some cases this particular support need requires to be addressed at the same time as other barriers to learning, for example a child attending a special school.
- 4.2 Therapists devise individualised programme to support the children receiving their services. They make effective contributions to Individualised Educational Programmes (IEPs).
- 4.3 Therapists work across all sectors but predominantly in schools, units and bases in the special sector.
- 4.4 Therapists and instructors are employed by NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and meet the requirements to practise set out by the Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists.
- 4.5 The service also leaves advice on how class teachers can consolidate work done by therapists between visits.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The Lead Therapist submits a half-yearly report on the work undertaken by the services.
- 5.2 NHS consult with Education Services on the prioritisation of therapists duties over the session.
- 5.3 The number of sessions contracted for Inverclyde is set at 1622 by therapists and an additional 414 sessions from instructors.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Scottish Government provides funding to Councils which is used to meet the costs of the SLT contract.
- 6.2 The budget available for the contract over the next 2 years is as follows:

Year	Budget
2009-2010	£224,720
2010-2011	£231,460

- 6.3 The financial implications of the contract as follows:

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With effect from	Annual net impact	Virement from	Other comments
Specific General	Speech & Language Therapy – payment to NHS	01.04.09	£224,720	n/a	Requesting Committee approval

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has been carried out with various representatives from NHS and with Legal Services. Further consultation with users of the services and head teachers is undertaken by Education Services in the course of the school session.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Speech and Language Therapy is a key support for many children in Inverclyde. It is therefore, essential that a workable and trustworthy contract be concluded and evaluated regularly, so that the relevant young people can benefit accordingly.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil